BENGALURU, FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 37 | Min 23 | Humidity 70% Partly cloudy sky Sensex 77,664 | Nifty 24,173 | Gold 1,53,550 | Silver 2,60,000 | Dollar 94.11 | Euro 110.71 | GBP 126.95

While 5% quota in housing schemes and land allotments for persons with disabilities is important milestone, disability activists want govt to ensure simple and well-supported application processes, accessible houses

INCLUSIVITY BEGINS AT HOME

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The Karnataka government's recent order mandating 5% reservation in housing schemes and land allotments, along with a 25% concession on land costs for persons with disabilities, has been widely welcomed as a progressive step toward inclusive development. With special priority for women with disabilities and applicability across government schemes, the move aligns with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and follows High Court directions.

However, while the policy marks an important milestone, disability rights experts say housing alone cannot address deeper structural barriers faced by persons with disabilities (PwDs).

"We welcome this forward-looking step by the Government. Inclusive housing is not a privilege, it's a right. This order is about restoring dignity, ownership, and equal opportunity, making that right a reality for persons with disabilities. This decision moves us from charity to rights, recognising persons with disabilities as rightful stakeholders in development, not beneficiaries on the margins," said Bhumika Modh, Head, Policy Research and Collaboration at Association of People with Disability.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

CITY / PAGE 5

PURE UNSURE

Small units in city sell bottled drinking water without required clearances or certification

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THINGS TO DO

01 Retro rendezvous

SOCIAL will host a music-themed trivia night centered on Michael Jackson and retro pop, featuring quiz rounds where participants guess songs, recall lyrics, and answer pop culture questions, with a mix of popular hits and lesser-known tracks. **Where: Indiranagar SOCIAL; When: April 26, 8 pm**

02 Symphony of hearts

Created by acclaimed director and composer Kevin Oliver and presented in support of the Kempegowda International Airport Foundation (KIAF), Odyssey of Love is a contemporary pop opera blending music, fashion and storytelling into a visually rich and immersive spectacle. **Where: Good Shepherd Auditorium, Shanthala Nagar; When: May 7**

03 Sacred stories

Atta Galatta is presenting Divine Delicacies, a unique experience where samples of prasadams from various temples will be served along with the stories of places of worship and the perceived food preferences of the divine. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: Apr 26, 12.30 pm**

04 Comic comeback

Rahul Dua, renowned stand-up comedian, a powerhouse performer, host (Shark Tank India Season 2 & 3, Comicstaan S3 Finale), actor, creator and writer will be performing live, marking his second stand-up special. **Where: MLR Convention Centre, Whitefield; When: May 10, 7 pm**

05 Tradition takes the floor

Rasanubhava is a classical dance festival that celebrates the journey from Rasa (emotion) to Bhava (expression), bringing together extraordinary artists and the timeless traditions of Indian performing arts on one stage. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleshwaram; When: April 25, 5 pm**

SSLC SPOTLIGHT

Mobile phone curbs, counselling efforts push pass rate to 94.1%

Efforts to curb mobile phone usage among students and expand counselling support have contributed to Karnataka recording a 94.1 per cent pass rate among regular freshers in SSLC exams, School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa said. "The department rolled out awareness drives in schools to limit screen time and reduce distractions during the academic year. Counselling sessions were conducted to help students manage exam stress, stay focused and maintain attendance. These measures were part of a wider plan to improve learning outcomes and ensure steady preparation," the minister added.

He said schools were instructed to monitor student progress closely and identify those needing additional support. Students were grouped based on performance levels, with after-school sessions held to strengthen reading and writing skills.

"Digital resources, including model question papers, previous exam papers and answer keys, were made available through the SSLC Student Corner on the KSEAB website. Added to these, combined focus on discipline, academic tracking and mental support helped improve student confidence and performance in the exams," Bangarappa added. — BMB

Joyful triumph Dhanush Sudhir, who secured 625 out of 625 marks in SSLC examinations, celebrates with his parents after declaration of results on Thursday

First class determination: Student writes exams on stretcher, passes

A student from KGF, who wrote her SSLC exams lying on a stretcher after arriving in an ambulance, has passed with first class, drawing attention for her determination. Kusuma was battling a serious health condition during the examination period. She was unable to stand or sit, but chose to appear for the exams so that a year of preparation would not go to waste.

Each day, she was brought to the exam centre in an ambulance and carried inside on a stretcher. Despite back pain and physical discomfort, she wrote all her papers lying down, with special arrangements made at the centre.

When the results were announced on Thursday, Kusuma secured 374 marks out of 625, earning a first class. Her effort stands out at a time when even healthy students find exam pres -sure difficult to handle. She is currently undergoing further treatment at a hospital in Whitefield, Bengaluru. Family members said she was relieved and happy on hearing that she had passed. — BMB

Toppers credit focus in class, steady study for centum scores

Students who secured centum scores in the SSLC exams this year said consistent study, clarity of concepts and limited dependence on external coaching helped them achieve full marks. Dhanush Sudhir, one of the toppers from Bengaluru, said he did not set very high expectations despite being confident. "I thought I would score well, but did not expect a centum. Most of my preparation was in school and tuition. At home, I studied for about one-and-a-half hours daily," he said.

He added that staying focused in class made a difference, especially in Mathematics, his favourite subject. "I studied throughout the year. Only after preparatory exams did I increase focus at home," he said. On mobile phone use, he advised students to ensure it does not affect exam preparation. Brunda M Tapse, another topper from Chikkamagaluru, said she did not attend any tuition classes. "I relied on what was taught in school. I used to clear doubts by calling my teachers, even at night," she said. She added that understanding concepts and staying calm during exams were key. Sukhdeva from Raichur, who also scored 625 out of 625, said the result came as a surprise. "I expected around 620 marks but did not think I would get full marks," he said. Toppers said regular study, teacher support and clarity in subjects played a key role in their performance. — BMB

94.1% pass, while 27 schools record zero pass percentage this year

Karnataka recorded a 94.1 per cent pass rate in SSLC exams this year, with 7,70,209 regular freshers clearing the test, setting a new high. Girls outperformed boys, with a pass percentage of 96.18, compared to 91.94 among boys. Among school categories, unaided institutions recorded 95.4 per cent, followed by government schools at 93.98 per cent and aided schools at 92.44 per cent.

Despite the overall rise, 27 schools reported zero pass percentage. This includes 22 private unaided schools and five aided institutions, raising concerns over performance gaps. Region-wise, Bengaluru North recorded a pass percentage of 95.33, while Bengaluru South stood at 91.64 per cent. The number of students securing full marks dropped this year. Seven students scored a perfect 625 out of 625, compared to 22 centum scorers last year. Officials said the results reflect a mix of improved performance across most schools and the need for targeted intervention in institutions with poor outcomes. — BMB

Fortis Hospitals Bengaluru launches Preventive Genomics Clinic on World DNA Day

Fortis Hospitals Bengaluru announced the launch of its Preventive Genomics Clinic across its network in Bengaluru. The clinic was inaugurated by Prof Padmanabhan Balaram, former Director of IISc Bengaluru, on World DNA Day, in the presence of clinicians, hospital leadership, and guests. The clinic will offer genetic testing, counselling, and treatment plans to help individuals make healthcare decisions based on their genetic profile and support early detection of inherited conditions, diagnosis of diseases, and treatment strategies. Services include genome and exome sequencing, hereditary cancer screening, pharmacogenomics, prenatal and newborn screening, cardiogenomics, neurogenomics, orthogenomics, genetic counselling, and cancer-directed genomic testing.

"I congratulate Fortis Hospitals on this initiative. Genomics is playing a role in shaping healthcare by enabling insights into disease mechanisms and risk profiles. Initiatives like this are critical in bridging science with clinical practice, helping move healthcare towards a preventive and personalised approach," said Prof Padmanabhan Balaram, former Director of IISc Bengaluru. "Many conditions, especially cancers, have a genetic link that can be identified early to avert disease and mortality risk. Through Preventive Genomics Clinic, we aim to provide patients with knowledge of their risks and enable timely intervention, improving outcomes and supporting preventive care," said Dr Niti Krishna Raizada, Principal Director, Medical Oncology & Hemato-Oncology, Fortis Hospitals Bengaluru. — BMB

CET centre tapes students' nose rings before examination

Students arriving for the CET at an exam centre in Chikkamagaluru district were in for a shock after staff pasted gum tape over nose rings worn by candidates before allowing them inside. The incident was reported at the MES College exam centre in the city, where several students had come wearing nose studs. As part of strict measures to prevent malpractice, staff instructed them to remove the ornaments. When some students said they were unable to remove their nose rings, staff taped over them and sent them into the examination hall. The move left students surprised at the entry point, even as they proceeded to write the exam. CET exams are being held across the state on Wednesday and Thursday, with tightened checks at centres. Electronic devices such as mobile phones and digital watches have been banned, and candidates are being screened before entry. Officials said the checks are part of efforts to ensure a fair examination process. — BMB

Lemon prices double to Rs.10 a piece amid supply crunch

Lemon prices have doubled to Rs 10 per piece, leaving consumers paying more during peak summer demand. A lemon that was sold for Rs 5 a month ago is now retailing at Rs 10, while bulk buyers such as juice vendors are getting it at around Rs 8 per piece. The price rise is linked to lower arrivals and higher supply to northern markets. Lemon is grown across 21,660 hectares in the state, including districts such as Vijayapura, Indi, Koppal and Bagalkote, with the Khagzi variety from Vijayapura seeing strong demand outside the state. Traders say limited availability in local markets has pushed prices up, with 100 lemons costing around Rs 800 in wholesale. Officials said summer typically sees lower yield and higher demand, leading to price increases, while traders say the sharp rise is making business difficult. — BMB

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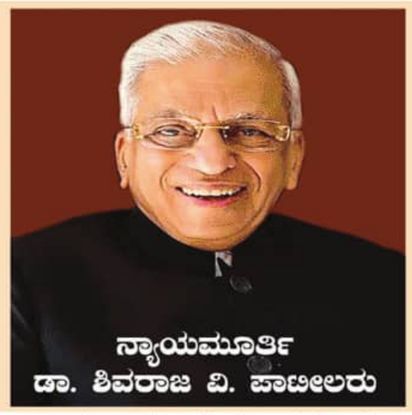
TRAINING FOR NEET IIT-JEE CET



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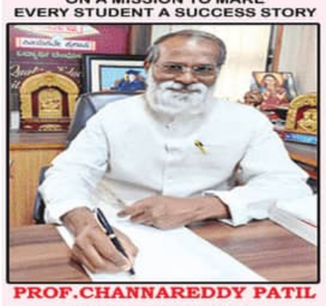

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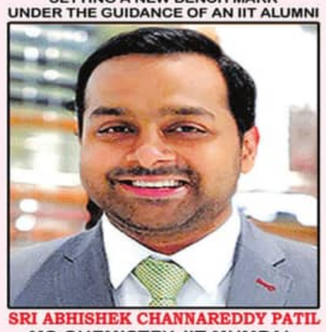
SETTING A NEW BENCH MARK UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF AN IIT ALUMNI



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ಕಳೆದ 5 ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ
4 ರಾಜ್ಯ ರ‍್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ಗಳು!

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IQRA KHANAM PUC 86% SSLC 68.40%
LAXMI RAMESHBABU PUC 86% SSLC 70.72%
SUKANYA S. RODAGI PUC 86% SSLC 77.28%
AYUSH S. GUTTEDAR PUC 85.83% SSLC 56.64%
PRAJWAL HARAMANTH PUC 85.83% SSLC 72.64%
RAKESH BASAVARAJ PUC 85.83% SSLC 80.64%
TANUSHREE NAGESH PUC 85.83% SSLC 83.84%
VENKATESH GOLASAR PUC 85.83% SSLC 74.56%
ENOSH SAMPATH KUMAR PUC 85.67%
DEVENDRA LAXMAN PUC 85.50% SSLC 75.36%
ESHWAR IMAMJI PUC 85.50% SSLC 56.16%
JEEVA JAGADEVAPPA PUC 85.50%
MEGHAMALA PUC 85.50% SSLC 68.16%
PANCHAL ROHIT DATTU PUC 85.50%
RITIKA PARIT PUC 85.50% SSLC 71.36%
KAVYA MONAPPA BADIGER PUC 85.33% SSLC 82.88%
SHARANU KUMAR PUC 85.33% SSLC 55.36%
TANUSHREE DILEEP PUC 85.33%
ANKHITA JAMADAR PUC 85.17%
NITI RAJESH PUC 85.17% SSLC 67.40%
SAINATH SIDDAPPA PUC 85.17% SSLC 73.12%

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Cubbon Park entry plagued by sewage overflow, visitors demand swift action

Visitors complain of foul smell and health risks as overflowing manhole near Metro gate remains unattended by BWSSB and Horticulture officials

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Many visitors to Cubbon Park have raised a stink about the unhygienic atmosphere at one of the entry gates of the park. They complained that they are not comfortable entering the park through the gate near the Metro station adjacent to the BSNL office. They said the authorities concerned have failed to address sewage overflowing from a manhole near the entrance.

(1) Sewage overflow onto the footpath at the Cubbon Park entrance; (2) Stagnant sewage water on the road

"Many people, including children, visit Cubbon Park. The pungent smell emanating from stagnated sewage water on the road makes it difficult for visitors to walk on the footpath. I don't know why the authorities – Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and the Department of Horticulture – have not fixed this problem. Sewage overflowing from the manhole ruins the image of Cubbon Park. I demand the authorities concerned take measures to fix this issue immediately," said Prakash M, a visitor.

Blaming the BWSSB for not attending to the problem, S Umesh, president of the Cubbon Park Walkers' Association, demanded that the authorities remove all sanitary pipes that pass-through Cubbon Park. "Overflowing sewage from manholes has become a nuisance and a recurring problem. It is not the first time that sewage has overflowed from the manhole near the BSNL office premises. I demand the BWSSB and the Department of Horticulture ensure there are no sewage issues in the future. The authorities should work towards making Cubbon Park a model park in the city," said Umesh.

Demanding that authorities pull up their socks and ensure there is no nuisance at Cubbon Park, Narasimha Murthy S, a visitor, said overflowing sewage from the choked manhole has become an eyesore and a health hazard. "Visitors are not able to walk on the road due to stagnation of sewage water. The entire stretch is stinky and nauseating. Cleaning a choked manhole is not a big task for the BWSSB. I don't know why the manhole is not yet cleaned," said Murthy.

Wondering why authorities remain apathetic to fixing a problem at such an important location, Ashok M, a visitor, said officials from the Horticulture Department must take the initiative to keep footpaths and roads in Cubbon Park free from garbage and sewage. "I hope the authorities concerned will fix the problem without any delay," he said.

A persistent sewage overflow near a busy park entrance has left visitors frustrated, forcing them to navigate foul, unhygienic conditions while authorities face criticism for delayed response

Meanwhile, Horticulture Department Deputy Director (Cubbon Park) Kusuma G said she would inform the BWSSB engineer to fix the manhole issue.

KSPCB cracks down on apartment for polluting Ambalipura Lake waters

Show-cause notice issued after inspection finds illegal discharge of floor washing water into storm drains, worsening lake pollution and water quality

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c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has issued a show-cause notice to the president/secretary of Trinity Complex Apartment Owners Association on Sarjapur Road, Ambalipura, for discharging floor washing/storm water into the nearby Ambalipura Lake through a pipeline. Bangalore Mirror had published a story – Pipe dream turns lake into toxic nightmare – on April 21, highlighting how Lower Ambalipura Lake was once again in the news for the wrong reasons. The show-cause notice, issued by the Environmental Officer of the Bommanahalli Regional Office of the KSPCB, stated that such discharge is leading to pollution of the lake and deterioration of water quality. "It has been brought to the notice of this office that the Bangalore Mirror had published an article on Tuesday about pollution of Ambalipura Lake.

As part of compliance, the pipe was shortened and sealed with a cap, preventing wastewater from entering the lake.

In view of the above non-compliances, the officers of this office had inspected your apartment and observed the following non-compliances: You are discharging floor washing water/storm water into the nearby Ambalipura Lake through a pipeline. Such discharge is leading to pollution of the lake and deterioration of water quality. Therefore, you are hereby directed to immediately stop discharge of any sewage/effluent into the storm water drain/lake and identify and rectify any illegal connections between sewage lines and storm water drains," the show-cause notice stated. The Environmental Officer has also advised the president/secretary to submit a detailed compliance report, along with photographs and supporting documents, within seven days of receiving the notice.

"Therefore, you are hereby called upon to 'Show-Cause' within 7 days from the date of receipt of this show-cause notice along with an action taken report on the above said non-compliance. Failing which further course of action will be initiated as per Pollution Control Acts and Rules. This may be treated as urgent and most important," the notice stated.

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Bangalore Amateur Horse Riding Institute

Sealed quotations are invited for the procurement of the following items for the year 2026-27.

Paddy Straw	: 25 bundles (100 kg each)
Carrot	: 260 kg
Lucerne	: 160 kg
Horseshoes	: 25 sets (4 shoes per set)
Nails	: 1 box per month

shoeing charges per horse. Last date and time for submission of quotation along with the necessary 30th April 2026.

Date : 24.04.2026 SD/- Secretary

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Problems in your area?
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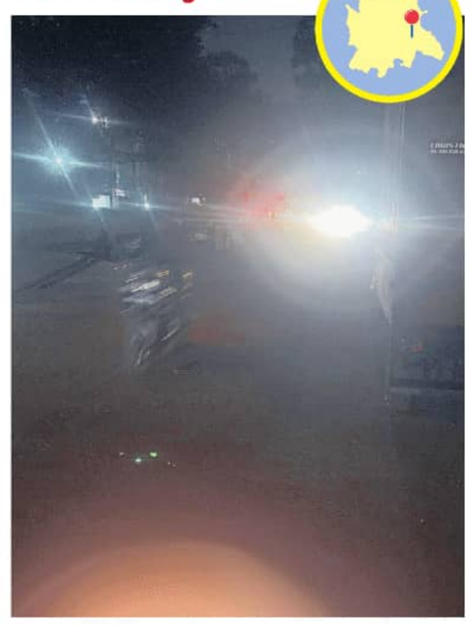
Bad roads
Hebbal

Road near Kempapura bus stop is worn out, causing inconvenience to commuters.

Dark streets
Victoria Layout



Streetlights on Palmgrove Road in Victoria Layout remain unrestored for two months after white-topping works.

Broken slabs
Vasantpur

Broken cement slabs at pipeline entrance near BMTC bus stop remain unreplaced at a busy junction.

WhatsApp scam targets officials

The Bengaluru Corporation has issued an advisory after individuals were found misusing the name, designation and photograph of Commissioner D S Ramesh to send messages via WhatsApp. Officials said messages were sent from an international number to officers, including the Additional Commissioner (Revenue) and a Joint Commissioner, seeking financial assistance in the Commissioner's name, indicating a possible fraud attempt.

The civic body clarified that neither the Commissioner nor any official seeks financial help through WhatsApp messages and urged the public not to trust or respond to such communication. A complaint has been filed with police and legal action initiated. Citizens have been advised to ignore unknown numbers and report incidents to the nearest police station. **–BMB**

Cable thieves nabbed

The Yeshwantpur police have arrested three persons accused of copper cable thefts and seized 4,140 modules, 60 meters of copper cable and one car, all valued at Rs 7 lakh. According to a complaint lodged by a BSNL staff member on April 19, around 2,160 modules and 66 meters of copper cable worth Rs 2,39,000 were stolen. Police tracked movements and used informers, leading to three persons being nabbed near Mathikere the same day.

During interrogation, the accused revealed they wore uniforms and helmets like BSNL staff, targeted infrastructure in multiple areas, damaged iron pillars, stole materials, and sold them through an accomplice at a railway station for profit. **–BMB**

Jewellery theft accused arrested

A man has been arrested in connection with a theft reported by a resident of an apartment in Bagalur Colony. The complaint stated that he left the flat on March 26 and, on returning on March 31, found someone had entered through the bathroom window and stolen gold jewellery. Police conducted a search on April 8 and nabbed the suspect near an apartment in Bagalur. Following his arrest, the court remanded him to 14 days of police custody.

During interrogation, the accused said he had pledged the gold ornaments at jewellery shops across several areas. Police recovered 62 grams of gold and 17 grams of silver ornaments worth Rs 7,57,800. **–BMB**

Man kills wife, ends his life

A man identified as David, from Ambedkar Colony, Ganganagar, is accused of murdering his wife Sumitra and later dying by suicide on Tuesday. The victim's sister filed a complaint at RT Nagar police station on Wednesday.

According to police, the couple married in 2016 and have two daughters. David worked as a road roller driver, while Sumitra was employed in a private company. Family members said the couple frequently quarrelled.

On the day, another quarrel broke out. David's elder brother Devadas came to advise them and took the children away. The next day, Sumitra's sister found both dead at home. Police are investigating. **–BMB**

Question of purity lands small bottling units in troubled waters

Unauthorised vendors and small-scale units supplying water that is neither purified nor certified, creating doubts among consumers who depend on 'mineral water' for daily use

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As summer temperatures rise across the city, the demand for bottled drinking water has increased sharply. However, this surge in consumption has also raised serious concerns over the quality and safety of bottled water being sold. Unauthorised vendors and small-scale units are reportedly supplying water that is neither properly purified nor certified, creating doubts among consumers who depend on so-called "mineral water" for daily use.

In several parts of Bengaluru, the bottled water trade has become increasingly unregulated, with some private units operating without mandatory licences from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). These units often bypass proper purification processes, yet continue to supply water to shops, hotels and households through bottles, cans and tankers. The situation is particularly worrying as many consumers remain unaware of the quality standards and certifications required for safe drinking water.

A statewide quality assessment conducted by the Food Safety Department in 2025 highlights the scale of the issue. During a special drive, around 255 bottled water samples across Karnataka were collected and tested. The findings were alarming: 95 samples were unsafe for consumption, while 88 were classified as substandard. Only 72 samples met the required safety standards, suggesting that a large portion of bottled water in the market may not be reliable. Experts believe similar trends are likely in Bengaluru, given the scale of supply and demand.

Officials have conducted raids in parts of the city, inspecting hotels and retail outlets, where several cases of poor-quality water supply have been identified. Notices have been issued to erring units and penalties imposed. Despite these measures, the unauthorised sale of bottled water continues, largely driven by high summer demand and gaps in enforcement.

Bottled water units need licences from Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

2025 statewide assessment found that out of 255 bottled water samples tested across Karnataka, 95 samples were unsafe for consumption, while 88 were classified as substandard, only 72 samples met safety standards

Consumers are being advised to remain cautious while purchasing bottled water. Authorities recommend checking labels to ensure the product is marked as mineral water or packaged drinking water and verifying certification marks such as BIS and FSSAI. These indicators help distinguish genuine products from substandard or counterfeit ones.

> **"We rely on bottled water almost daily in summer, but we do not know if it is safe**
>
> –Mohammed Ashraf, Whitefield resident

Enforcement challenges persist in Bengaluru, with officials admitting that monitoring every unit remains difficult. Residents say the ground reality is worrying. "We rely on bottled water almost daily in summer, but we cannot know if it is safe," said Mohammed Ashraf from Whitefield. Nina John from Yelahanka said, "Even branded cans show inconsistent quality." Public health experts warn that prolonged consumption of unsafe water can lead to serious health issues.

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Joblessness no excuse to skip maintenance

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that a husband cannot avoid paying maintenance to his estranged wife merely by claiming unemployment, especially if he has the capacity to earn. In its order dated April 17, the court emphasised that an able-bodied individual is presumed capable of supporting themselves financially. It observed that a husband cannot sidestep his legal responsibilities by citing a lack of current employment.

The case involved a software engineer who challenged a family court's direction to pay ₹20,000 per month as maintenance to his wife. He argued that he had lost his job due to organisational restructuring and was currently dependent on savings and his parents' pension. He also pointed out that his wife was employed and earning over ₹40,000 per month.

However, the wife's counsel contended that the husband had previously earned a substantial income, reportedly around ₹4.5 lakh per month, and owned multiple properties, including assets abroad. It was also alleged that the marriage had been marked by harassment. After reviewing the material, the court noted that the husband's past income records reflected strong earning potential. His qualifications and work history indicated that he remained capable of generating income, regardless of his current job status.

Addressing the wife's earnings, the court clarified that a spouse's employment does not automatically disqualify them from receiving maintenance. Instead, the key consideration is whether that income is sufficient to maintain a standard of living comparable to that experienced during the marriage. The court found the wife's income modest and upheld ₹20,000 as fair, against her ₹70,000 demand. — BMB

Polluters will be made to pay up

State Pollution Control Board submits action plan to assess, recover environmental compensation imposed on govt agencies, private firms that failed to meet environmental standards; govt approval is awaited

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The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has prepared an action plan to assess and recover environmental compensation imposed on government agencies and private companies that failed to meet environmental standards across the state. The State Pollution Control Board has submitted the plan to the government for approval.

"A proposal to evaluate and recover EC from all erring organisations has been prepared and sent to the government for approval. Once approved, action will be taken to recover EC and utilise it for environmental restoration," said a KSPCB official. The plan to assess and recover EC by all State Pollution Control Boards, including KSPCB, will comply with the Environment (Protection) Act. KSPCB has taken up the initiative following instructions from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

CPCB issued the direction a few days ago, asking KSPCB to develop an appropriate mechanism for the assessment and recovery of EC in all districts of the state. The State Pollution Control Board was further tasked with devising a system to utilise the recovered compensation for environmental restoration. KSPCB is expected to submit an action taken report on the matter to CPCB soon.

These measures have been initiated based on a report by an expert committee constituted by the National Green Tribunal(NGT) to assess the scale of environmental compensation required to address cases of illegal sand mining across the country. NGT, in 2021, directed that the scale of compensation calculated based on the expert committee's proposal be adopted by all states. The states are required to store the recovered compensation in a separate account and utilise the sum for environmental restoration by preparing an appropriate action plan.

The green court had then stated that the scale of compensation to be recovered for violations of mining norms should be based on the Polluter Pays Principle. The Tribunal held that the compensation should be calculated with regard to the polluter pays principle and not merely the loss of royalty. This requires taking into account the value of the illegally mined material and the cost of restoring the environment.

Following the Tribunal's order, CPCB issued a direction to the Environment Secretary of Karnataka, as well as to all states, requesting that an appropriate mechanism be established. However, Karnataka failed to submit a report, and only 11 states—Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, Kerala, and Odisha, came up with an action plan.

Pollution authority drafts enforcement blueprint, chasing noncompliance, strengthening monitoring systems, allocating collected fines for sustainability programmes

Tax credit racket kingpin caught

The Karnataka Commercial Taxes Department arrested an alleged kingpin of a ₹410-crore interstate fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) fraud racket on Wednesday. The accused, identified as Mohammed Tauqeer, hails from Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh and has been living in Bengaluru. He was arrested by the Enforcement Wing while attempting to abscond. He has been remanded in 14 days' judicial custody based on the order of the Special Court for Economic Offences.

Tauqeer and absconding aide Shaik Jakeer Hussain ran a bogus firm network, faking ₹410 crore transactions and claiming ₹102.5 crore ITC across three states.

Authorities said the operation was highly organised, using multiple phone numbers, bank accounts and isolated entities to avoid detection. The accused also created and cancelled GST registrations to facilitate the fraud. — BMB

Teen kills baby shortly after giving birth

A 19-year-old, identified as Renuka, allegedly killed her newborn shortly after giving birth inside a toilet at a private manufacturing unit. On April 22, housekeeping staff reported that the toilet was clogged, which led to police intervention by officials from the Vishwanathapura Police Station. Police established a timeline of the incident and stated that the blockage was first noticed on April 21, on the second floor of the manufacturing facility. Preliminary findings showed the newborn's throat was slit before being dumped in a toilet. Renuka, a teen from Yadgir staying in a facility dorm, is undergoing treatment after postnatal complications. Police suspect she delivered the baby in the toilet, fearing social stigma. A murder case under Section 103 of the BNS has been registered. She will be questioned after recovery, while her family has been informed and investigation continues. — BMB

Fire alerts halved, risks loom

Karnataka sees wildfire decline as alerts halve despite April spike, officials credit shifting weather patterns and reduced forest fuel loads

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When it comes to forest fires, 2026 has turned out to be relatively calm for Karnataka. According to data from the Forest Survey of India (FSI), the number of fire alerts this year has gone down by nearly 50 per cent. Between February 1 and April 20, FSI recorded 3,871 fire alerts, compared to 7,314 during the same period last year.

Officials from the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) said that although forest fire incidents have increased in April, the fire season overall has remained less eventful. KFD officials explained that weather conditions before and during the fire season cause variations in fire alerts across months and years, significantly influencing ground conditions.

"This year, we have witnessed a surge in fire alerts and incidents during the pre-fire season, from October 2025 to January 2026. However, the peak forest fire months of February and March saw a decrease in the number of fire alerts. April is witnessing a slight increase in incidents. Forest fires also depend on weather conditions, which is a complex phenomenon to predict, and it is all these factors that make the difference," said Anil Kumar Ratan, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Resource Management, Karnataka Forest Department.

Experts said forest fires follow a cycle, with incidents rising when excessive fuel builds up on the forest floor. The number has gone down as this is probably the year with the least amount of fuel biomass on the forest floor.

"Forest fire frequency and intensity vary based on fuel availability. In Karnataka, forest fires follow a cycle of three to four years. The last major forest fire year was 2023, when most of the forest floor biomass was likely burnt in fire incidents, leaving behind less fuel and leading to a considerable drop in the number of incidents and alerts," said a conservationist.

Experts warn upcoming season may intensify blazes after minimal biomass accumulation cycle, urging preventive measures, community awareness, strategic fireline creation across vulnerable regions future risks

Looking ahead, experts warned that 2027 could be critical for Karnataka's forests. "Fewer fire incidents lead to excessive fuel build-up, resulting in more intense and higher numbers of fire incidents in upcoming fire seasons. Fire management by the department, such as fire line creation, is going to be crucial next year. However, since the majority of forest fire incidents in Karnataka are man-made, awareness drives among villagers living on forest fringes will be of utmost importance," the conservationist added.

Summer tour to Bannerghatta announced

The Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC), a Government of Karnataka undertaking with over 55 years of experience in operating guided tours and hospitality services through the Mayura Group of Hotels, has announced a special one-day summer tour to Bannerghatta Biological Park and Muthyala Maduvu.

The air-conditioned coach tour will operate daily except Tuesdays, departing from Yeshwantpur at 7.15 am. Pick-up points include Kempegowda Bus Stand, Shantinagar Bus Stand, and Jayanagar Bus Stand. The itinerary covers Bannerghatta Zoo, a safari experience, and the Butterfly Park, followed by a visit to Muthyala Maduvu, including boating and sunset viewing.

Priced at ₹1,680, the package includes all entry fees, meals and direct gate access. Bookings are open at Yeshwantpur, authorised agents and online. — BMB

Bengaluru, currently 3rd on table with 8 points, can't afford to slip up

RCB, GT hope for batting resurgence in clash today

Royal Challengers Bengaluru will be eyeing a batting resurgence against an equally stuttering Gujarat Titans in their Indian Premier League match in Bengaluru on Friday.

A slightly tacky Chinnaswamy pitch squeezed the usual firepower out of the RCB batting unit against Delhi Capitals in their previous match, which they lost by six wickets.

But more than the second defeat of the season, which was also a first at home in IPL 2026, squandering a chance to firm up their position inside the top four might disappoint RCB management.

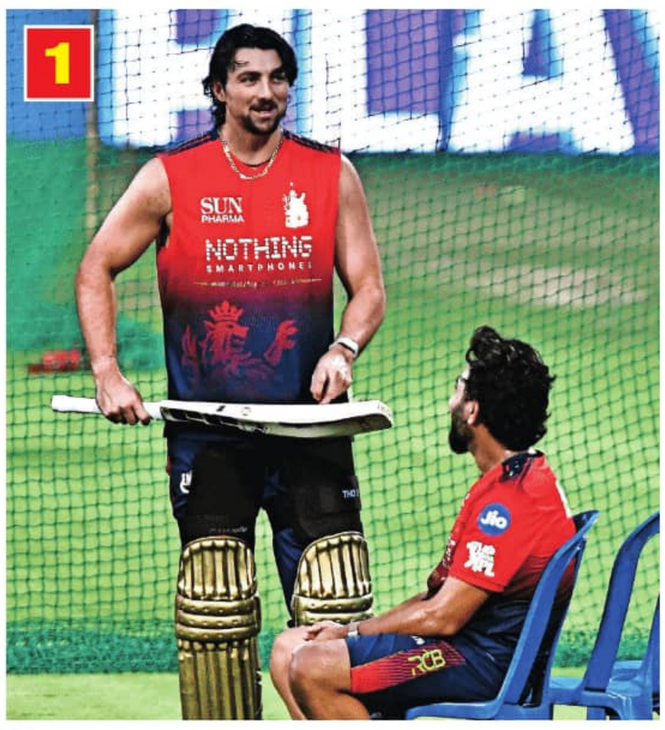
Now, third on the table with eight points, they have Sunrisers Hyderabad (8 points), Delhi Capitals and the Titans (6 points each) close on their tail.

The reigning champions would very well know that another slip-up, this time against GT, would push them further into a tight spot, particularly because they are now bracing for a slew of away matches, including two at 'home away from home' Raipur.

Therefore, the Royal Challengers would like to give a fitting farewell to their adoring and loyal Chinnaswamy fans, producing a forceful effort against Gujarat.

But one pre-requisite for that is RCB batters' regaining their mojo and finding a way to put on board a challenging total even when conditions do not favour them.

The opposite of it has happened in two matches in a row. RCB won quite easily in the end against Lucknow Super Giants in the 16th over but gave away five wickets in return.



1. Tim David of RCB during net practice session on Thursday 2. Prasidda Krishna and Rashid Khan of Gujarat Titans during net practice

Against DC, the RCB batters could not get going from ball one despite opener Phil Salt making a well-crafted 63.

Even acclaimed six-hitters like Rajat Patidar and Tim David had to look for alternate ways to score runs, though without much success. So, the RCB batters might do well to keep a Plan B in store, as, at times, their all-out attack approach might not work.

RCB bowlers under Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who has aged like fine wine, dragged the contest against the Capitals to the penultimate over, but did not have enough runs on board to play with. They would hope for a change in script on Friday.

Similarly, the Gujarat outfit too would envisage a changed script.

The former champions were bundled out for 100 by Mumbai Indians, pushing them to a 99-run defeat which also dealt a severe blow to their net run rate.

Skipper Shubman Gill and Jos Buttler have shown some consistency but the likes of B Sai Sudharsan, Glenn Phillips and Rahul Tewatia are yet to support them with knocks of importance or at least some handy cameos.

It has resulted in GT's failure to come up with at least one signature batting effort this season, unlike their Friday's rival RCB have done so often in IPL 2026.

The Titans have a potent bowling line-up consisting of Prasidh Krishna, Kagiso Rabada, Mohammed Siraj and Rashid Khan but were often hampered by their batting colleagues' inconsistencies.

-PTI

Today's battle
Royal Challengers Bengaluru
VS
Gujarat Titans
7.30 PM Bengaluru

HIGHLIGHTS

Rehan Ahmed named as Ben Duckett's replacement

Delhi Capitals (DC) have signed England all-rounder Rehan Ahmed as a replacement for his compatriot Ben Duckett for the remainder of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season. According to an official IPL media advisory, Rehan has been roped in for a fee of INR 75 lakh. The 21-year-old right-arm leg-spinner has represented England in all three formats, featuring in five Tests, nine ODIs, and 13 T20Is, and has taken a total of 49 international wickets so far.
Duckett had withdrawn from what would have been his maiden IPL stint just before the start of the tournament in order to focus on his England commitments following a challenging Ashes tour. The Capitals did not name an immediate replacement at the time, instead opting to reshuffle their batting order, with Pathum Nissanka opening alongside KL Rahul. **-IANS**

Madhwal in Mhatre's place

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) have signed Akash Madhwal as a replacement for Ayush Mhatre, who has been ruled out of the remainder of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 due to a hamstring injury. In a statement, IPL said Madhwal, a right-arm fast bowler, has previously represented the Mumbai Indians (MI) (2023, 2024) and the Rajasthan Royals (2025).
The right-arm speedster Madhwal has featured in 17 IPL matches, picking up 23 wickets. He also has a five-wicket haul to his name, having recorded sensational figures of 5/5 in his debut season for MI in the Eliminator against Lucknow Super Giants. Mhatre, India's U19 World Cup-winning captain, made an impactful start to the season for CSK, scoring two fifties in six matches before suffering a left hamstring injury while batting in Match 27 against Sunrisers Hyderabad. Madhwal has joined the five-time champions CSK for a fee of Rs 30 Lakh. **-ANI**

Samson paves way to Chennai win as Mumbai crumbles

Sanju Samson's fluent second hundred of the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) cruised Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to a massive 207-6 against Mumbai Indians (MI) on Thursday in Mumbai at the iconic Wankhede Stadium. Mumbai Indians' troubles were further increased when they wickets started tumbling fast once they set out to chase the daunting total. Akeal Husein struck at all the right times to vanquish Mumbai's batting line-up.

Samson's exploits

Samson was at his best once again as he slammed 101 off 54 balls, laced with 10 fours and 6 sixes, striking at 187.04.

This was also Sanju Samson's fifth IPL hundred, taking him to joint fourth on the all-time list alongside KL Rahul, behind Virat Kohli (8), Jos Buttler (7) and Chris Gayle (6). Samson's hundred is the first individual century by a CSK batter against MI in IPL.

Mumbai Indians (MI) won the toss and elected to bowl first. Sanju Samson and Ruturaj Gaikwad opened the innings for CSK. The Powerplay was a high-octane affair, dominated by CSK's aggressive intent.

They raced to 73 runs in the first 6 overs, utilising the fielding restrictions to the fullest. This was CSK's second-highest power-play score vs MI in IPL, after 90/0 at the same venue in 2015.

Despite losing skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad (22 off 14) in the 3rd over to Allah Ghazanfar, the scoring rate didn't dip.

Sanju Samson and Sarfaraz Khan continued the attack on MI bowlers, smashing both pace and spin. However, Mitchell Santner, after being smashed for 2 fours, got the better of Khan, removing him for 14, bringing Shivam Dube to the crease.

Ghazanfar struck again, removing Shivam Dube in the 9th over for just 5. Samson anchored the innings with a 26-ball fifty, supported by Dewald Brevis (21), before Ashwani Kumar removed Brevis in the 11th over.

Chennai Super Kings' Sanju Samson celebrates his half century

As the innings progressed to the 15-over mark, CSK reached 149-4. Samson took on the young seamer Krish Bhagat in his first over of the match, smashing him for 15 runs.

However, Jasprit Bumrah in the following over struck back, removing Kartik Sharma for 18 off 19 balls, bringing Jamie Overton to the crease.

Overton kick-started his innings with back-to-back boundaries off Ashwani Kumar in the 18th over, but Kumar had the final say, dismissing him off the last ball of the over for 15.

Jasprit Bumrah once again proved crucial for his side, delivering an impressive 19th over that conceded just 10 runs and finishing with figures of 1/31. Samson smashed 16 runs off the last over to push CSK past 200. **-ANI**

‘Having a stable and accessible home means I can focus on my work’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She added that while the announcement addresses key challenges like affordability and access to allocation, its success will depend heavily on execution. “From what we see on the ground, even when schemes exist, people are often unable to access them due to cost or lack of inclusion in allocation. This move addresses both to some extent. The real impact will depend on how it is implemented. People need clear information, simple processes, and support through the application journey. At the same time, the housing itself has to be accessible and located in areas where people can actually live and work productively.”

Prateek Khandelwal, Founder and Managing Director - RampMyCity, also welcomed the move.”The allotted homes must be genuinely usable and designed keeping accessibility needs in mind, otherwise the benefit remains on paper. The government should focus on time-bound and transparent allotment so the benefit reaches people. It must also create clear design guidelines for disability-friendly housing and enforce them across schemes. They should provide support beyond ownership, such as easy access to home modifications, assistive devices, and financing options.”

Experts point out that policy intent often fails at the implementation stage. According to Modh, “The gap usually begins at the access point. Many eligible individuals are not aware of the schemes, or they find the process difficult to navigate. Documentation, multiple touchpoints, and a lack of guidance often lead to people dropping out midway.”

She also highlighted issues of inter-departmental coordination and accountability. “Different departments are involved, but there is limited clarity on roles and accountability. This slows things down and creates inconsistencies in implementation.”

Beyond allocation, the design and location of housing remain critical concerns. “We also see that accessibility is not always built into the outcome. Homes may be allotted, but they are not designed keeping diverse needs in mind. In some cases, location becomes a barrier, if housing is far from transport, workplaces, or services, it limits how useful it is in practice,” she said.

The provision for prioritising women with disabilities is another key feature of the order, but experts caution that without targeted outreach, it may not translate into real benefits. “Women with disabilities often face multiple layers of exclusion. Many depend on others for information, documentation, or mobility, which can limit their ability to access schemes independently,” Modh noted.

“For this priority to work in practice, there needs to be targeted outreach, identifying and reaching women who may not come forward on their own,” she added.

Experts emphasise that long-term inclusion requires a more holistic approach. “Housing can provide stability, but people need access to opportunities around them to build a sustainable life. Employment, skilling, healthcare, and accessible transport are all closely linked to how inclusive a system really is,” Modh said.

Kantaraj Naik, a person with spinal cord injury, peer trainer at the Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Centre, APD, and an international para badminton player, said the order addresses a long-standing gap.

“I am happy to see this order come through. After my spinal injury, even basic things like finding a place to live that works for me haven’t always been easy. Cost is one part of it, but even more than that, it’s about whether the space actually supports your daily needs.

Through my own journey and now as a peer trainer, I have seen that this is something many of us struggle with. So a step like this can make a real difference. For me, having a stable and accessible home means I can focus on my work, my training, and preparing for competitions. And for many others, it can bring a sense of independence and dignity in everyday life.”

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personal

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I, ABDUL KAREEM (Old Name) Residing at No. Address No 5/1 7th Main BTM 1st Stage Bangalore- 560029 have changed my name to ABDUL KAREEM GAFOOR (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 23/4/2026 Before Notary M. K Devaki Bangalore.

I, SANTHOSH KUMAR CHINNAPPA, Residing at No. 09, 7th Main,17th Cross,, BTM 2nd stage, Bangalore – 560076, have changed my name to C SANTOSH KUMAR, vide affidavit dated 16/03/2026, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I,CHAITHRA K, W/o Lakshmi Narayan Nehru B S. R/o Chikka Basavanapura, Near Mariyaamma Arch. K.R Pura - 560049 my Son name mentioned as Ghanishta Nanda B.L instead of Ghanishta B L for all purposes Affidavit dated 22/04/2026 sworn before the Notary H.Sridhar Rao Bangalore.

I, Naheed Chikmagalur Firoze S/O Firoze Ahmed No FL NO S2 21/5 krishna apartment 2nd main road Ambedkar Nagar Kavalbyrasandra Bengaluru 560032 Have chnaged my name to Naheed Chikmagalur Firoze ahmed for all purposes,.

I, Kadarappa Chikkamarappa S/o Chikkamarappa R/o No 153/D, 1st Phase, 8th Cross, Beml Layout, 7th Stage, Mylasandra, Rv Niketan Post, Bengaluru - 560059. Have changed my name to Kadarappa for All Purposes.

I Gayathri Govindappa W/O, Mallikarjunappa S R/o No 424, 12th Cross, 4th Main, 3rd Block, Near Mes School, Bel Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore - 560097 have changed my name to Gayathri Mallikarjunappa.

I, Satish Shekharayya, s/o Shekharayya Hiremath, R/o No-8/1 Anupama Building Papanna Block Ganganagar B'lore-560032 have changed my name to Satish Hiremath, for all purposes.

I, Nisha Rajeshkumar Udani S/o, Rajeshkumar Saubhagyachand Udani R/o 303, Prime Lavender, Panathur Main Road Kadubeesanahalli Bangalore have changed my name to Nisha Abhishek Doshi for all purposes

I Vani W/o Vishwanath M J R/o Hosa Badavane 2nd Cross Gubbi Tumakuru 572216 Have changed my name to Rajani for all Purposes.

I, Diya Saraf D/o, Rajiv Saraf R/o No 3154,prestige Notting Hill Apts, Bannerghatta Rd,kalena Agrahara,B'luru 560076 have changed my name to Deeya Saraf .

I Parimala Also Known As Marichandra Vasudevan W/O, Saravana Kumar.r R/o Flat N0-f 38,shristhi Enclave,108,sy 4/3,near Mims Apts, sampigehalli, yelahanka Post, Bengaluru- 560064 have changed my name to Parimala Vasudevan.

I, C C Naveen Kumar, S/o C N Chandrashekhar, R/at No.283, Balu Nilaya, 3rd Floor, 6th Cross, ITI Layout, Mallatha halli, Ullalu Upanagara, Bengaluru-560056, have changed my name to Tejas Om Chandra, vide affidavit dt: 23.04.2026 Notary Devaraja E, Bengaluru.

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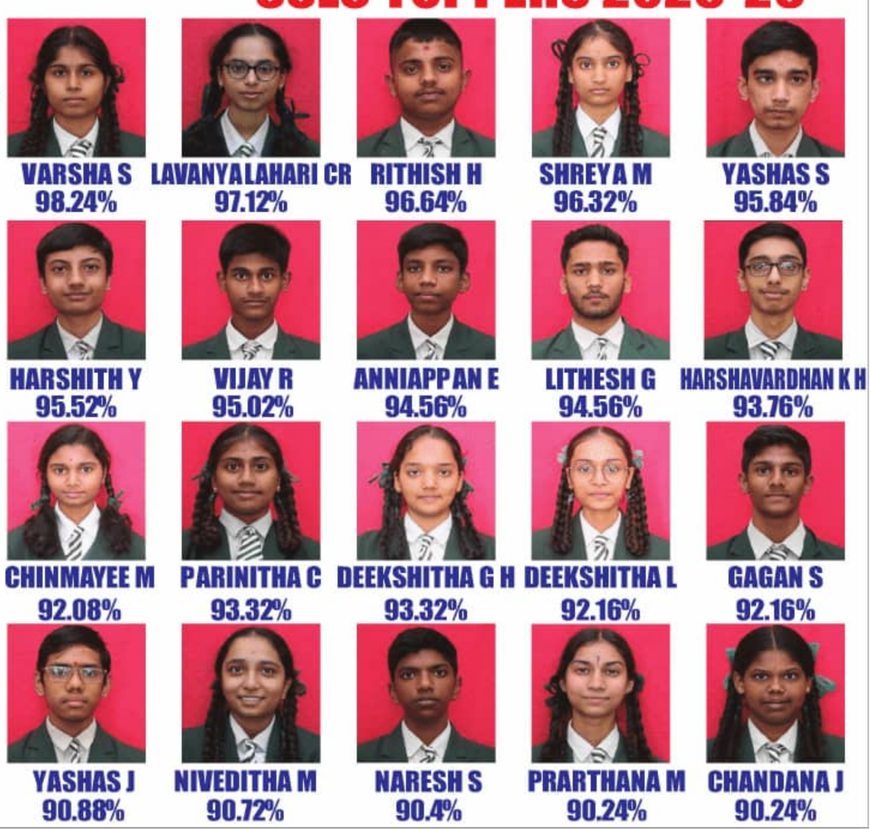

HEALTH TIP: Amla, coconut oil, and shikakai nourish scalp, strengthen roots, and promote healthy hair growth weekly

Pineapple's bromelain may reduce appetite, ease bloating, and support digestion,improving gut function

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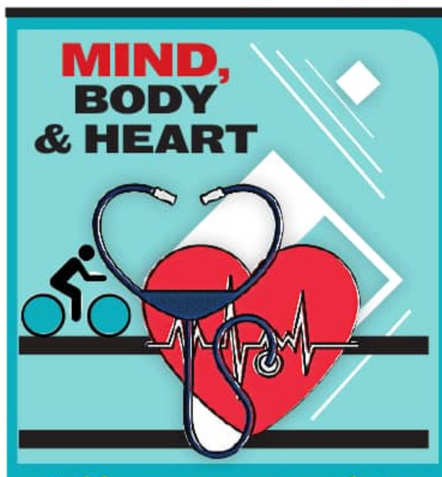


All you need to know about...

Summer skin rescue

Summers are synonymous with fun, vacations, picnics and outdoor activities. However, prolonged exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays can damage the skin, causing painful sunburns. Here are some effective home remedies to soothe sunburned skin and reduce inflammation:

Yoghurt: Rich in probiotics and enzymes, yoghurt helps repair damaged skin. Apply half a cup of plain yoghurt directly to the affected area. Leave it on until the burning sensation reduces, then rinse gently with cool water.

Aloe vera: Known for its anti-inflammatory properties, aloe vera reduces redness and provides instant cooling. Extract fresh gel from the leaves and apply it generously over the sunburned area. Let it absorb into the skin before rinsing with cool water. Repeat five to six times a day for best results.

Oatmeal: Oatmeal helps retain the skin's natural moisture and soothes irritation. Prepare a runny oatmeal mixture using water, allow it to cool, and apply it over the affected skin. Leave it on for about 30 minutes before rinsing. Use this remedy up to three times daily.

Mint and green tea: Mint cools the skin, while green tea contains tannic acid and theobromine that help relieve pain. Boil green tea leaves and mint leaves, let the mixture steep, then cool and refrigerate. Apply using cotton pads and rinse once relief is felt.

Apple cider vinegar: Its astringent properties ease pain and itching. Add one cup to a lukewarm bath and soak for 30 minutes daily to help restore skin balance.

—Femina

POSTPARTUM CHANGES YOU SHOULDN'T IGNORE

From thyroid issues to blood clots, hidden risks can emerge after childbirth

During pregnancy, a mother's body undergoes vast structural and functional changes. But what many might not know is that the after-effects of these changes can last long after giving birth and can even result in the development of new health conditions.

The body's rapid shift from pregnancy to postpartum recovery often triggers a range of conditions, some mild and temporary, others requiring urgent medical attention. Doctors say awareness remains key, as many women tend to ignore early symptoms during the hectic weeks after delivery.

Gallstones risk rises after delivery

One common condition that arises after pregnancy is gallstones, affecting approximately 12% of women. These are hard deposits, usually made of cholesterol, that form in the gallbladder the organ responsible for releasing bile to help digest fats.

If these stones move out of the gallbladder and become lodged in the ducts connecting it to the intestines, they can cause intense, sharp pain under the ribs, typically on the right side. The pain may radiate to the back and shoulder. Other symptoms include vomiting and darkened urine.

During pregnancy, the gastrointestinal system slows down to maximise nutrient delivery to the foetus. This slowdown also delays bile movement from the gallbladder. At the same time, cholesterol levels increase to support foetal development, creating conditions favourable for gallstone formation.

After childbirth, digestive activity speeds up again. This shift can push previously formed stones into the ducts, triggering symptoms. In severe cases, doctors may recommend dissolving the stones or surgically removing the gallbladder.

Hormonal shifts impact vision

The eyes can also undergo noticeable changes after pregnancy, with blurry vision and dry eyes among the most commonly reported issues. These changes occur due to the sharp drop in hormones such as oestrogen and progesterone following delivery.

During pregnancy, fluctuating hormone levels cause fluid retention, leading to swelling in various tissues, including the eyes. This can subtly alter the shape of the eye over time.

Once hormone levels return to normal postpartum, these visual changes may become more apparent. In most cases, vision stabilises naturally. However, some women may continue to experience near- or far-sightedness.

In rare instances, more serious complications can arise. One such condition is optic neuritis, where the immune system attacks the protective layer of the optic nerve. During pregnancy, the immune system adapts to prevent rejection of the foetus. After delivery, it returns to its pre-pregnancy state, and in some cases, overreacts.

Treatment typically involves corticosteroids to reduce inflammation and restore vision. In more severe cases, procedures such as plasma exchange where the blood plasma is replaced with donor plasma may be required.

Postpartum thyroiditis affects metabolism

Another condition affecting around 10% of new mothers is postpartum thyroiditis. Among women with diabetes, the incidence can rise to 20%.

This condition affects the thyroid gland, which regulates metabolism, energy levels, growth and development. It results from the immune system's rebound after pregnancy.

Initially, the thyroid becomes overactive, a condition known as hyperthyroidism. Symptoms include weight loss, anxiety, heat intolerance and tremors due to excessive hormone production.

This phase often transitions into hypothyroidism, where the thyroid becomes underactive. Women may then experience fatigue, low mood and sensitivity to cold.

The initial overactivity occurs because the gland releases stored hormones. Once these reserves deplete, hormone production drops. Doctors can manage both phases with medication, and many women recover fully within a few months.

Postpartum pre-eclampsia can turn life-threatening

One of the most serious post-pregnancy complications is postpartum pre-eclampsia, which can affect up to 27% of mothers.

The condition involves high blood pressure after childbirth and can occur anywhere from a few hours to six weeks postpartum. While some women experience mild or no symptoms, others may develop severe complications.

Warning signs include persistent headaches, shortness of breath, abdominal pain and vision disturbances. The condition can affect women who had pre-eclampsia during pregnancy as well as those who did not.

If left untreated, it can lead to brain damage, stroke or even death. Doctors typically manage the condition with antihypertensive medications to control blood pressure and prevent complications.

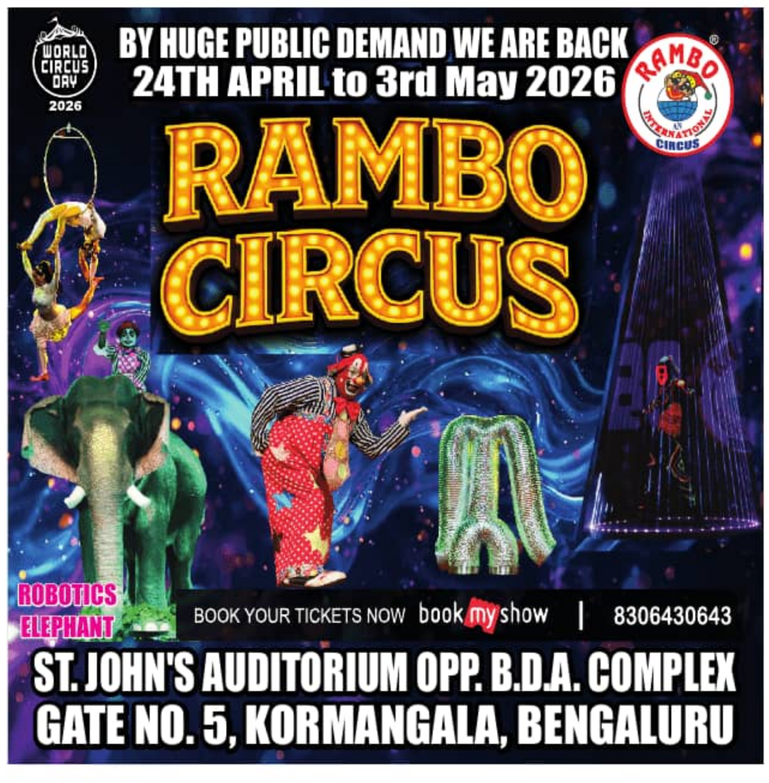
Blood clots pose hidden danger

Blood clots remain one of the most dangerous postpartum risks. pulmonary embolism, where a clot blocks a major artery in the lungs, is a leading cause of maternal deaths worldwide.

The risk of such clots increases nearly sixty-fold after pregnancy compared to non-pregnant women. Symptoms may appear up to six weeks after delivery and include shortness of breath, rapid heartbeat and, in some cases, coughing up blood.

During and after pregnancy, the body enters a "hyper-clotting" state to prevent excessive bleeding during childbirth. However, this same mechanism can cause clots to form in veins, especially in the legs.

Adam Taylor, Professor of Anatomy, Lancaster University, The Conversation



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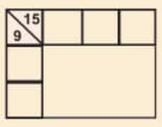
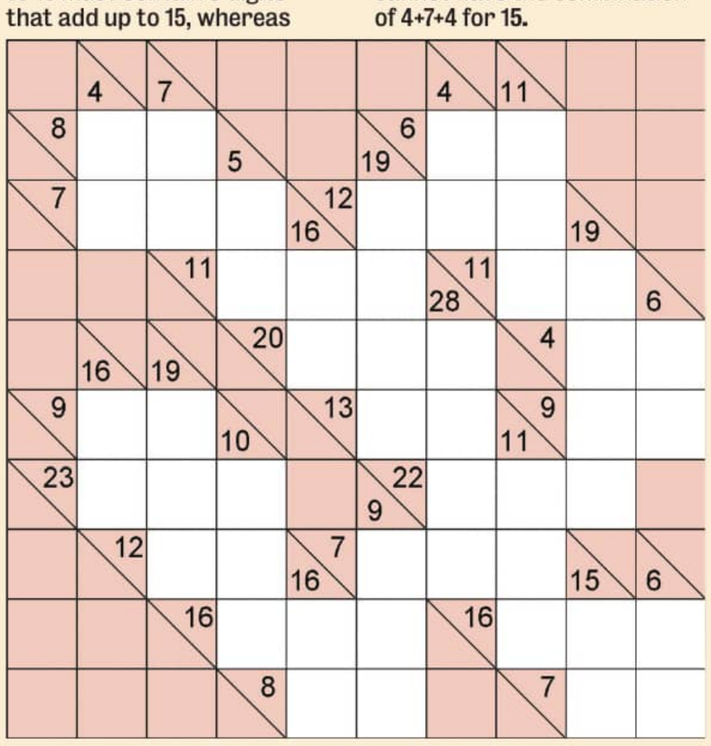
Kakuro

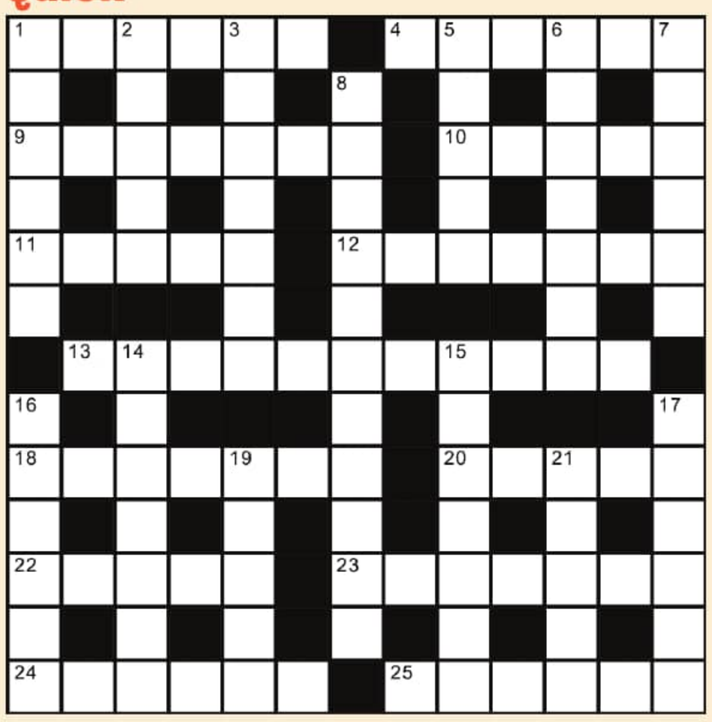
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Enchants (6)
4 Achieve (6)
9 Unrivalled person or thing, paragon (7)
10 Lawful colloquially speaking (5)
11 Mentally prepare (5)
12 In the distant past (4,3)
13 City treasurer (11)
18 Downcast (7)
20 Core group (5)
22 Coral isle (5)
23 Rewards for investment (7)
24 Tries or attempts (6)
25 Hollywood Academy Awards (6)

DOWN

1 Savoury appetiser (6)
2 Irk or pester (5)
3 Author William Somerset ____ (7)
5 Hooked claw (5)
6 Something to spend in Kabul (7)
7 Country (6)
8 C in our IPL team RCB (11)
14 Light two-wheeled cabs? (7)
15 Finds, ascertains or discovers? (7)
16 Express in words (6)
17 Pieces of poetry (6)
19 ___ dally : vacillate or dawdle? (5)
21 Hindu goddess of war (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Q EQUALS U

PIAS WAS BA KGYBJI, TIC XAQ SGKK MLAOGB JDJI OLAH BWAYJ SWA BTKP VTCKX.

Linemaro

Is this the registration table? Because I need a number from you

Mindchow

One can easily judge the character of a person by the way they treat people who can do nothing for them

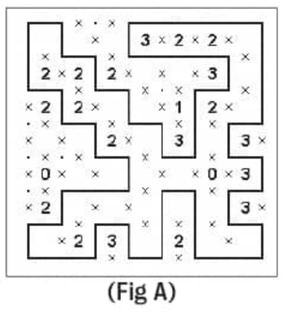
Joke of the day

Whoever invented knock knock jokes should get a no bell prize

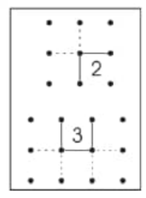
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

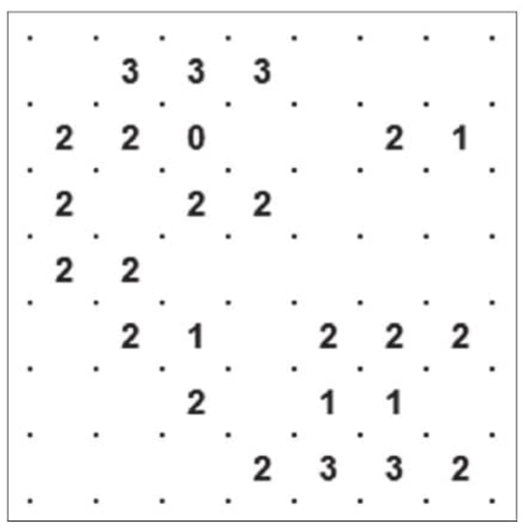


(Fig B) Not Allowed

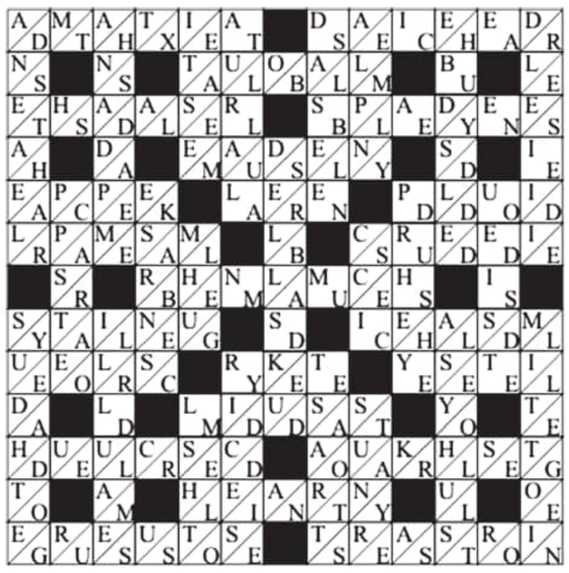
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



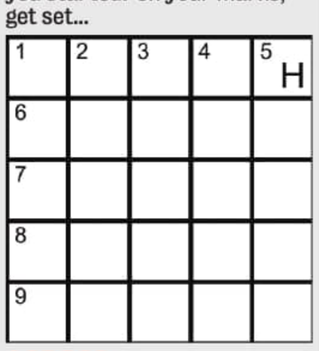
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Right; 6 Ree Nu; 7 Mated; 8 A bung; 9 Type A

DOWN

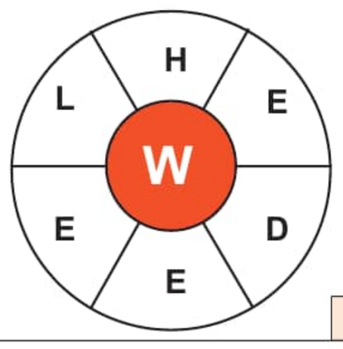
1 Up Get; 2 A nine; 3 Umbra; 4 Tetra; 5 Hey DG

Mensapuzzle

Which number is missing from the grid?

6	2	5
10	3	16
18	6	60
34	15	

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **07** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		2		8		9		
			7	5	1			
	7						8	
	1	6	2		4	8	3	
9								2
	3	4	5		8	1	9	
	8						1	
			1	2	7			
		5		4		3		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 4

3 8 8 7

Medium = 5

5 7 9 5

Hard = 13

2 5 5 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

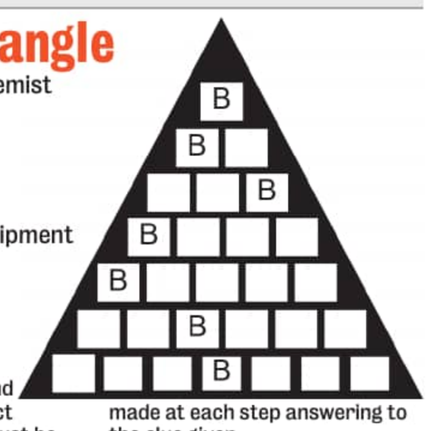
Differences: 1. Purse is larger. 2. Hand is moved. 3. Mouth is open wider. 4. Dress collar is different. 5. Man is taller. 6. Feather is longer.

Riddler

You and five friends capture six fish in six minutes. How many friends will you need to capture sixty fish in one hour?

Alpha triangle

1 Boron for the chemist
2 College degree
3 Chemist's milieu
4 Bundle of hay
5 Dim
6 Hoi polloi
7 Piece of gym equipment



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

PAPPY WILL TELL THE JUDGE 'AT YOU CONNED HIM INTO HELPIN' YOU!
BAH!
YOU'LL GIT A HUN'RED YEARS, AN' PAPPY WILL BE FREE!
YOU'LL ROT IN JAIL!
DO YOU KNOW A HUSBAND CAN'T TESTIFY AGAINST A WIFE?
YEAH! TOO BAD YOU AIN'T MARRIED!
7-23
NO FIRHING
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Wayno® & Piraro. 1·12·26
They're surprisingly productive when threatened with off-site team-building activities.
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Diamond Lil

EDNA, THERE'S A WEEKLONG HERCULES MOVIE MARATHON ON TV
WHAT?!
A WHOLE WEEK OF THOSE DUMB, CHEESY FILMS STARRING OILED-UP BODYBUILDERS RUNNING AROUND IN SKIMPY LEATHER SKIRTS?!
YES
I'LL BRING MY JAMMIES
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Hart of the city

VICE PRINCIPAL SANCHEZ?
WHAT DID YOU DO THIS TIME, HEART?
I'M INNOCENT! I JUST HAVE A REQUEST!
YOU HAVE TWO MINUTES. WHAT'S THE REQUEST?
A TIME LIMIT ISN'T THAT CONDUCIVE TO CONVERSATION.
ONE MINUTE AND FIFTY SECONDS.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2026 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

AT LEAST CRANKSHAFT DIDN'T KNOCK OVER MY MAILBOX...
LOOKS LIKE IT'S MY LUCKY DAY!
AUUUUUGHH!
0013
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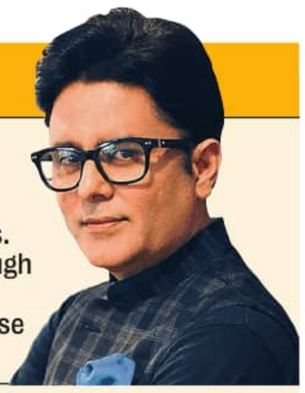
Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Your birthday begins a thoughtful year of balance, ambition, and discovery. Travel opportunities appear through work, creativity, or learning experiences. Love feels stable, affectionate, and deeply reassuring. Finances improve through discipline, patience, and clever choices. Home life feels cozy and lively with cooking, laughter, music, and shared stories. Move forward confidently because the months ahead reward courage, curiosity, kindness, and persistence.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

You may feel certain about your emotions today, Aries, yet hesitant to express them. Sharing your feelings could bring positive responses, so speak honestly and confidently.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Responsibilities increase today, Taurus, but don't doubt your ability to handle them. Your skills and determination will help you manage tasks efficiently and earn recognition.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Spending time outdoors may bring clarity today, Gemini. Fresh air and nature can help you think more clearly and overcome worries that have been troubling you.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Positive news may brighten your day, Cancer. This uplifting development encourages you to reconnect with people you haven't spoken to in a while.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Things flow smoothly today, Leo. Your leadership ensures that tasks progress effortlessly as others support your plans and follow your guidance.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Be cautious with spending today, Virgo. Even if finances seem stable, avoid major purchases and focus only on essential expenses.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Luck supports your financial decisions today, Libra. If you've been considering a major purchase or signing an agreement, this could be a favorable moment.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Someone may challenge your authority today, Scorpio. Stand firm and defend your position confidently, knowing you earned your role through ability and dedication.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Conversations and social interactions fill your day, Sagittarius. Meeting new people may lead to connections that become important in your future.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Your social life improves today, Capricorn. Old friends may reach out again, though you should remain aware of who genuinely values your friendship.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

You may feel uncertain about decisions today, Aquarius. Instead of worrying about the future, focus on one step at a time and allow events to unfold naturally.

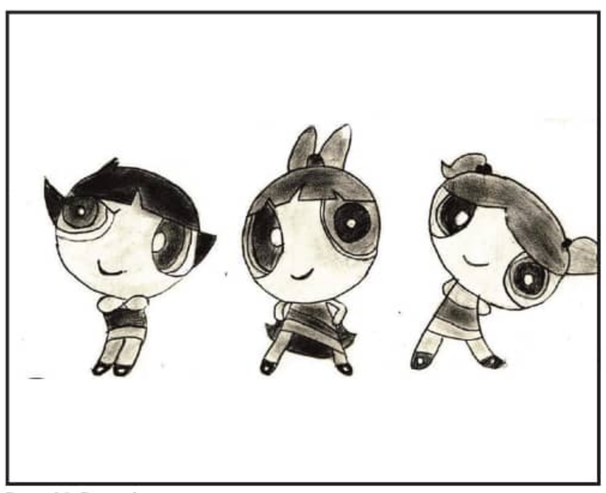
Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Loved ones may seek your attention today, Pisces. Spend meaningful time with them and appreciate a romantic gesture that may surprise you.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Beulah, Bengaluru



Prapthi, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

3 x 4 + √(4 + 12) - 8 =
12 + √16 - 8 =
12 + 4 - 8 =
16 - 8 = 8

BULL'S EYE

hewed, lewd, weed, weld, WHEEDLE, wheel, WHEELED

FAST FIVE

G	I	R	T	H
E	N	U	R	E
T	A	M	E	D
U	N	B	A	G
P	E	A	T	Y

QUOTE UNCODE

Know how to listen, and you will profit even from those who talk badly.

STRIKE OUT

A	T	A	X	I	A	S	A	C	H	E	R
N	N	T	U	B	A	L	U	E			
T	H	A	L	E	R	B	L	A	D	E	S
H	D	M	A	D	L	Y	D	I			
E	P	E	E	L	E	E	P	L	O	D	
R	A	M	A	L	B	S	U	E	D	E	
S	T	I	N	G	S	C	H	A	S	M	
E	E	L	S	R	E	T	Y	E	T	I	
D	E	U	C	E	D	A	U	K	L	E	T
O	M	L	E	A	R	N	U	E			
A	L	M	I	D	S	T	O	T			
G	U	E	S	T	S	S	E	A	S	O	N

QUICK

C	H	A	R	M	S		A	T	T	A	I
A	N		A		C		A		F		A
N	O	N	S	U	C	H		L	E	G	I
A	O		G		A		O		H		I
P	S	Y	C	H		L	O	N	G	A	G
E			A			L					O
C	H	A	M	B	E	R	L	A	I	N	
P		A				O					V
H	A	N	G	D	O	G		E			R
R		S		I			E		A		R
A	T	O	L	L		R	E	T	U	R	N
S		M		L		S		E			S
E	S	S	A	Y	S		O	S	C	A	R

MENSA PUZZLE

236. Working in columns from top to bottom, on the left, multiply each value by 2 then subtract 2 to give the next number. In the centre column by 3 and the right hand column by 4.

RIDDLER 5 friends.

SUDOKU

5	6	2	4	8	3	9	7	1
8	4	9	7	5	1	6	2	3
3	7	1	9	6	2	5	8	4
7	1	6	2	9	4	8	3	5
9	5	8	3	1	6	7	4	2
2	3	4	5	7	8	1	9	6
4	8	7	6	3	5	2	1	9
6	9	3	1	2	7	4	5	8
1	2	5	8	4	9	3	6	7

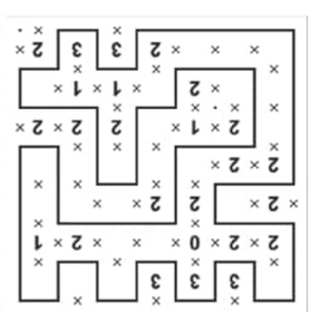
ALPHA TRIANGLE

B, BA, Lab, Bale, Blear, Rabble, Barbell.

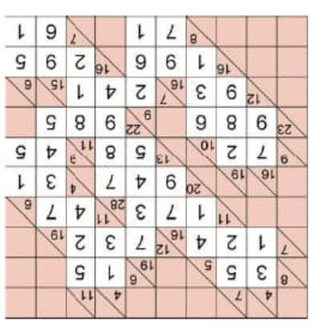
GO FIGURE

Easy
8 - 3 + 7 - 8 = 4
Medium
9 - 7 x 5 - 5 = 5
Hard
5 - 2 x 6 - 5 = 13

LOOP



KAKURO



Volume No 18, Issue No 081 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/0 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

 # Coachella romance buzz
Kendall Jenner and Jacob Elordi fuel dating rumours after Coachella sightings, reportedly spending time together quietly

Mum's the word for Neha

Neha Dhupia, known for her candid views, recently spoke about motherhood and work on Parineeti Chopra's talk show Mom Talks, revealing that her labour began while she was still shooting.

Work and motherhood

Reflecting on balancing career and parenting, Dhupia said, "As a woman, you should be able to do all the things you wish to do after becoming a mum. The needle shouldn't change too much."

She shared that she worked through most of her pregnancy. "I wanted to go back to work. I worked right till the end, till eight and a half months pregnant. My contractions actually started at Yash Raj Studios," she said.

Despite the physical demands, she remained committed to her professional responsibilities, while also addressing the pressure on new mothers to step back from their careers.

Family life

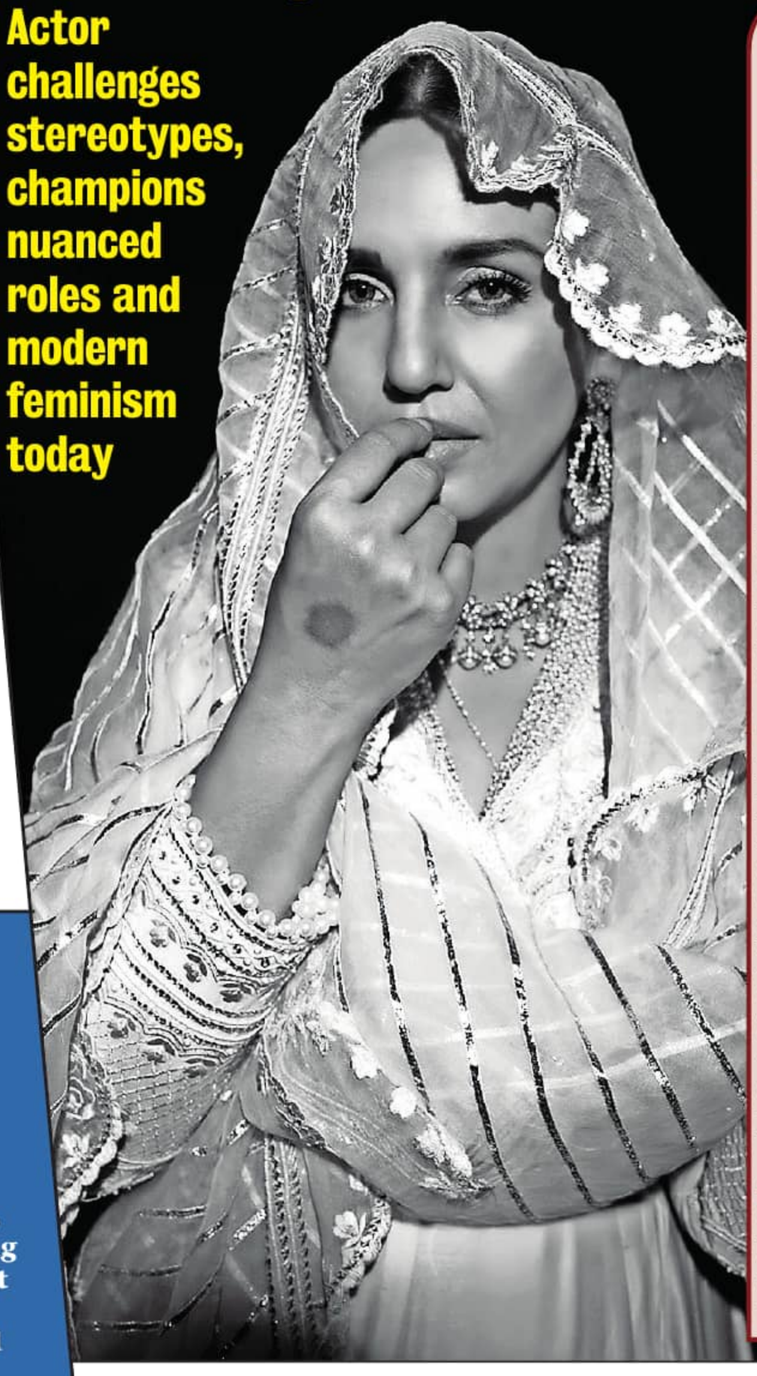
Dhupia is married to Angad Bedi. The couple welcomed their daughter Mehr in 2018 and their son Guriq in 2021.

Chopra, who recently became a mother, welcomed her son Neer last year with Raghav Chadha, using Mom Talks to spotlight real parenting experiences.

— ETimes

Huma Qureshi breaks moulds

Actor challenges stereotypes, champions nuanced roles and modern feminism today



An actress who prioritises substance over stereotypes, Huma Qureshi is as compelling in conversation as she is on screen. During a recent visit to Ahmedabad, she spoke about womanhood, feminism and her refusal to be boxed into predictable roles.

'The tried and tested is boring'

Huma has built her career by rejecting formulaic roles. "Give me something new, and I'll prove you wrong," she says, stressing that audiences value originality. Known for layered performances in Maharani, Mithya, Delhi Crime 3, and Monica O My Darling, she has explored complex, morally grey characters. While OTT platforms gave her room to experiment, she now aims to bring that success to theatres and draw audiences back to cinemas. Her next goal: action roles.

'Morally grey women are real'

Huma welcomes the growing acceptance of flawed female characters. "They are more real and relatable. The damsel in distress or one-dimensional vamp belongs to the past," she says, adding that audiences were always ready for layered storytelling.Rejecting labels, Huma says feminism is not about opposing men. "The real issue is patriarchy, sustained by both men and women. We need to move beyond constant comparison." She credits her confidence to the support of her father and brother.

Ahmedabad connect

Calling it her "favourite city", Huma says her bond with Ahmedabad goes beyond work, and she hopes to explore it more as a traveller.

—ETimes

On a global stage

Shreya Ghoshal has once again highlighted the global appeal of Indian music following her recent UK tour, where she was met with an overwhelming response from international audiences.

Reflecting on the experience, she described it as "incredibly special". "Performing across the United Kingdom on the Unstoppable tour reminds me how deeply music connects us across borders. Watching entire arenas sing along, often louder than me, is surreal and deeply moving," she said.

The tour featured packed venues and enthusiastic crowds, underlining the growing reach of Hindi film music. For many in the diaspora, such concerts serve as a bridge to home. Ghoshal noted the strong sense of nostalgia, saying, "These songs become a piece of home, creating a very intimate bond."

She also highlighted the shared energy at her concerts. "Sold-out venues, people celebrating every moment—it felt less like a performance and more like a collective experience," she added.

Beyond touring, Ghoshal continues to remain active across film industries and independent music, experimenting with genres and languages.

With a career spanning over two decades, she has delivered iconic songs such as Bairi Piya, Teri Ore, Sun Raha Hai, and Deewani Mastani, cementing her place in Indian music.

—ETimes

Changing fortunes

Avinash Tiwary has reflected on the changing fortunes of his 2018 film Laila Majnu, which transformed from a box-office failure into a cult favourite after its 2023 re-release.

Initially, Laila Majnu flopped and was pulled from theatres within days. Its re-release, driven by demand, turned it into a success, earning nearly double and running over a month.

Tiwary noted the stark shift in people's reactions. "Nobody knows anything. If a film works, they'll praise you and come for advice. After Laila Majnu re-released, many people asked me for advice," he said. He added that earlier, he was met with sympathy. "They would say, 'Arrey, bechara!' Now I speak to them like an expert," he remarked, pointing to the industry's sense of self-importance. Despite lacking a major blockbuster, Tiwary says he has carved his own path. "I've worked with top production houses without huge numbers," he notes. With varied roles in Madgaon Express, and Khakee: The Bihar Chapter, he rejects rigid industry norms, adding, "I don't believe in templates."

—ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Legacy lives on

A function was organised in Bengaluru to mark the 50-day run of the Kannada film Jagannatha Dasaru 2, directed by Madhusudhan Havaldar. The sequel to Jagannatha Dasaru continues the legacy of devotional storytelling that resonated with audiences when the first part released in 2021.

The event was graced by Sri Satyatma Thirtha of Uttaradi Math, along with several dignitaries and artistes. Highlighting the legacy of Jagannatha Dasaru, Satyatma Thirtha noted his influence in inspiring spiritual devotion and praised the director's continued efforts in bringing stories of saint-poets to the screen.

He also launched the title of Havaldar's upcoming film Namma Rayaru during the occasion. Expressing gratitude, Havaldar credited his parents, friends, and spiritual inspiration for the film's success. He said the project, produced under the Sri Mathambuja Movies banner, was driven by devotion and a desire to share cultural heritage with wider audiences.

Goodwill gesture

Producers and directors typically celebrate a film's success by honouring the cast and crew with mementoes and garlands. However, Geetha Priya, who played the lead in the Kannada film Aparichithe, chose a more meaningful path. She extended support to three acid attack victims during a function held at Hyatt Centric on Tuesday.

"I thank them for accepting our invitation. I am presenting a cheque of ₹50,000 to each, drawn from the film's box-office collection," she said. Geetha Priya, who debuted with Thayavva, added that her upcoming project is a children's film and hinted at supporting a film on acid attack survivors.

Actress Meghana Raj, the chief guest, praised the gesture, calling the victims' resilience inspiring and Geetha Priya a role model. Veteran actor Srinath lauded the initiative, stating that celebrating success by helping others was far more meaningful than box-office numbers.